WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output, comprising:

determining a balance;

determining a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;

dispensing the dispensed amount; and

adjusting the balance by the dispensed amount.

2.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount comprises:

dispensing an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed amount.

3.   The method of claim 2, in which the step of dispensing an amount of currency comprises:

activating a hopper to dispense an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed amount.

4.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount comprises:

transferring the dispensed amount to an account.

5.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount comprises:

adjusting a remote balance of a remote gaming device that is in communication with the gaming device.

1 6.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is

2 less than the balance comprises:

3   receiving a signal specifying the dispensed amount.

1 7.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is

2 less than the balance comprises:

3   determining the dispensed amount in accordance with a balance management rule.

1 8.   The method of claim 7, in which the balance management rule specifies that the

2 dispensed amount be a difference between the balance and a predetermined threshold.

1 9.   The method of claim 8, in which the predetermined threshold is an initial balance.

1 10.   The method of claim 7, in which the balance management rule specifies that the

2 dispensed amount be a predetermined percentage of a difference between the balance and a

3 predetermined threshold.

1 11.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of adjusting the balance by the dispensed

2 amount comprises:

3   decreasing the balance by the dispensed amount.

1 12.   An apparatus for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output,

2 comprising:

3   a processor; and

4   a memory in communication with the processor,

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5   the memory storing

6   a program,

7   and the processor operative with the program to

8   determine a balance;

9   determine a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;

10   dispense the dispensed amount; and

11   adjust the balance by the dispensed amount.

1   13.   A method for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output, comprising:

2   establishing a balance;

3   initiating a play of the gaming device, the play having a corresponding wager amount

4   and winning amount;

5   adjusting the balance in dependence on the wager amount and the winning amount,

6   thereby generating a first adjusted balance;

7   determining a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;

8   dispensing the dispensed amount; and

9   adjusting the first adjusted balance by the dispensed amount, thereby generating a

10   second adjusted balance.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount

2   comprises:

3   dispensing an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed amount.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, in which the step of dispensing an amount of currency

2   comprises:

3   activating a hopper to dispense an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed

4   amount.

1   16.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount

2   comprises:

3   transferring the dispensed amount to an account.

1   17.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount

2   comprises:

3   adjusting a remote balance of a remote gaming device that is in communication with

4   the gaming device.

1   18.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is

2   less than the balance comprises:

3   receiving a signal that specifies the dispensed amount.

1   19.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is

2   less than the balance comprises:

3   determining the dispensed amount in accordance with a balance management rule.

1   20.   The method of claim 19, in which the balance management rule specifies that the

2   dispensed amount be a difference between the balance and a predetermined threshold.

1   21.   The method of claim 20, in which the predetermined threshold is an initial balance.

1 22. The method of claim 19, in which the balance management rule specifies that the

2 dispensed amount be a predetermined percentage of a difference between the balance and a

3 predetermined threshold.

1 23. The method of claim 19, in which the balance management rule specifies that the

2 dispensed amount be a predetermined percentage of the winning amount.

1 24. The method of claim 13, in which the step of adjusting the balance by the dispensed

2 amount comprises:

3   decreasing the balance by the dispensed amount.

1 25. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2   preventing selection of a wager amount that is greater than an available amount, the

3 available amount being a difference between the balance and a predetermined threshold.

1 26. An apparatus for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output,

2 comprising:

3   a processor; and

4   a memory in communication with the processor,

5   the memory storing

6   a program,

7   and the processor operative with the program to

8   establish a balance;

9   initiate a play of the gaming device, the play having a corresponding wager

10 amount and winning amount;

11   adjust the balance in dependence on the wager amount and the winning

12   amount, thereby generating a first adjusted balance;

13   determine a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;

14   dispense the dispensed amount; and

15   adjust the first adjusted balance by the dispensed amount, thereby generating a

16   second adjusted balance.